

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 DPW-01 PM-03 L-02

DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 IO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14243

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: MR IV SITREP FOR AUGUST 6, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON AUG 6 INFO USDAO AOSOP-SOP OR SAIGON USS  
AG NAKHON PHANOM REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

CAN THO

SUMMARY: A SLIGHT DECREASE IN VC CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS  
DURING THE JULY 29 TO AUGUST 4 PERIOD IS REPORTED BY IV CORPS.  
ARVN OPERATIONS CONTINUE IN CHUONG THIEN, BUT AT A SOMEWHAT  
REDUCED RATE. SEVERAL PROVINCES REPORT A GRADUAL REDUCTION  
IN VC-INITIATED ACTIVITY. THE CRACKDOWN ON HOA HAO BANDITS  
IN HOA HAO VILLAGE CONTINUES, NOW EXPANDED INTO A GENERAL  
SEARCH FOR DESERTERS AND DRAFT-DODGERS. SEVERAL OTHER PRO-  
VINCES HAVE ALSO BEEN THE SCENE OF RECENT LARGE-SCALE  
ROUNDUP OF DESERTERS AND DRAFT-DODGERS. TWO 21ST DIVISION  
POL DUMPS WERE DESTROYED. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 29 TO  
AUGUST 4, MR IV REPORTS A SLIGHT DECREASE IN VC-INITIATED  
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INCIDENTS TO 239 (PREVIOUS WEEK 252), INCLUDING 22 GROUND  
ATTACKS, 164 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 51 SABOTAGE INCIDENTS, 51  
INFILTRATION INCIDENTS, AND 36 HARASSMENTS. 145 OF THE 239  
INCIDENTS WERE IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE. THERE WERE 206

GVN-INITIATED

OPERATIONS. THE GVN LOST 133 KILLED, 605 WOUNDED, 55 MISSING, 1 CREW-SERVED WEAPON, AND 99 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. GVN CLAIMS 467 VC KILLED, 7 CAPTURED, AND 9 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS AND 180 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS SEIZED. GVN OPERATIONS CONTINUED IN CHUONG THIEN, BUT AT A SOMEWHAT REDUCED RATE. THERE ARE NOW 12 RF BATTALIONS FROM OTHER PROVINCES IN CHUONG THIEN.

(B) FOR AUGUST 5, MRV REPORTED 40 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS, INCLUDING 5 GROUND ATTACKS, 31 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 1 SABOTAGE INCIDENT, 1 TERRORIST INCIDENT, 2 HARASSMENTS, BUT NO CASES OF INFILTRATION. MR IV REPORTED 17 KILLED, 89 WOUNDED, AND 8 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS LOST. THE GVN CLAIMED THE VC LOST 60 KILLED, 8 CAPTURED, ONE SUSPECT CAPTURED, THREE CREW-SERVED WEAPONS SEIZED, AND 26 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS SEIZED. 17 OF THE 40 INCIDENTS WERE IN CHUONG THIEN, CONCENTRATED IN THE NORTHEAST AND NORTHWEST CORNERS OF THE PROVINCE, WEST OF VI THANH CITY, AND IN THE BORDER AREA OF LONG MY AND KIEN THIEN DISTRICTS NORTH OF THE BA XUYEN BORDER.

## 2. GVN ACTIVITIES:

THE GVN IS CONSIDERING MOVING THE ELEMENTS OF THE 4TH AIR DIVISION PRESENTLY AT SOC TRANG AIRFIELD TO CAN THO TO CONSOLIDATE LOGISTIC OPERATIONS AND FREE SOME 2000 PERSONNEL FOR OTHER TASKS.

3. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: (A) AN GIANG, AN XUYEN, AND CHAU DOC PROVINCES REPORT LARGE SCALE SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS BY GVN UNITS AND MILITARY POLICE TO ROUND UP DRAFT DODGERS AND DESERTERS. SIMILAR OPERATIONS IN PHONG DINH AND DINH TUONG PROVINCES, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN LARGELY UNSUCCESSFUL. THE CHAU DOC PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THAT THE GVN CRACKDOWN ON THE "GOLDEN CRAB" HOA HAO BANDIT GANG (CAN THO CONFIDENTIAL

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0592 AND 0627) HAS NOW DEVELOPED INTO A MORE GENERAL ROUND-UP OF DRAFT DODGERS AND DESERTERS. FROM JULY 29 TO AUGUST 2, 408 ARRESTS WERE MADE, INCLUDING 14 GOLDEN CRAB MEMBERS, 25 SUSPECTED BANDITS, 23 PERSONS WITH ILLEGAL PAPERS, 46 DESERTERS, AND 132 DRAFT DODGERS. SOME 168 PERSONS INITIALLY ARRESTED WERE RELEASED. AS OF AUGUST 3 THE OPERATION WAS CONTINUING, INCLUDING DISTRIBUTION OF A LEAFLET BY AIR AND ON THE GROUND IN A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH OF ALL OF HOA HAO VILLAGE AND ENVIRONS. THESE OPERATIONS SHOW INCREASED GVN DETERMINATION TO DEAL WITH DRAFT EVASION. IT IS ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY THAT THESE OPERATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN HOA HAO VILLAGE DEMONSTRATING GVN RESOLVE TO ENTER EVEN THE MOST POLITICAL

SENSITIVE AREAS.

(B) THE INTERPROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE IN DINH TUONG REPORTS A STRONG AND GROWING GVN PRESENCE IN HAU MY VILLAGE, IN THE HEART OF WHAT USED TO BE VC BASE AREA 470. THE VILLAGE TODAY BOASTS 26 OUTPOSTS, WITH THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS OF THE 14TH REGIMENT OF THE ARVN 9TH DIVISION LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE CENTER ITSELF. THE ROAD TO ROUTE 4 HAS BEEN OPEN SINCE MID-MAY, AND THE MARKETPLACE IS THRIVING. AN OLD GVN PLAN TO CREATE A NEW HAU MY DISTRICT--WHICH WOULD ALSO INCLUDE PARTS OF NEIGHBORING KIEN PHONG AND KIEN TUONG PROVINCES--HAS BEEN REVIVED. HOWEVER, LATE REPORTS BY MR IV INDICATE THAT THE VC MAIN FORCE 261ST BATTALION HAS RECENTLY MOVED FROM SOUTH-CENTRAL DINH TUONG INTO THE NORTHERNMOST PART OF THE OLD BASE AREA.

(C) THE KIEN HOA PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THE LOWEST LEVEL OF INCIDENTS IN JULY FOR ANY MONTH SINCE JANUARY. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF NEW VC/NVA UNITS OR OF INFILTRATION. OF 240 INCIDENTS OF ALL TYPES IN JULY, 183 RESULTED FROM GVN OPERATIONS. GVN UNITS ARE MAINTAINING PRESSURE ON THE VC, CLEARING MINI-BASE AREAS AND ATTEMPTING TO OPEN LONG-NEGLECTED ROUTES INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE. SOME 65 HOI CHANH HAVE RALLIED TO THE GVN SINCE CEASEFIRE II. MORALE, DISCIPLINE, AND SUPPORT OF GVN FIELD UNITS ARE REPORTED TO BE HIGH. ONE RF BATTALION HAS RETURNED TO GO CONG PROVINCE, LEAVING THREE GO CONG RF BATTALIONS IN KIEN HOA, IN SUPPORT  
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OF THE ELEVEN LOCAL BATTALIONS.

(D) THE BAC LIEU PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS A GENERAL DECREASE IN VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS. GROUND ATTACKS, FOR EXAMPLE, DROPPED FROM 4 IN JUNE TO NONE IN JULY. ATTACKS BY FIRE DROPPED FROM 12 TO 3, AND HARASSMENTS FROM 15 TO 10.

(E) THE AN XUYEN PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS AOKA MAU CITY ATTACK BY M-79 FROM ACROSS THE RIVER (IN THE MIDST OF AN "A" HAMLET) WHICH HIT THE PROVINCE POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

(F) IN ELABORATION OF THE COMPARATIVE PHONG DINH INCIDENT FIGURES (400 SO FAR THIS YEAR VERSUS 155 TO DATE LAST YEAR) REPORTED IN THE AUGUST 4 SITREPH(CAN THO 0627), IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT (A) THE BULK OF THE MORE SERIOUS INCIDENTS OCCURRED AROUND THE TIME OF THE JANUARY CEASEFIRE (E.G., OUT OF 108 GROUND ATTACKS THROUGH JULY, 62 OCCURRED IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY), (B) SOME INCIDENTS WITHIN PHONG DINH PROVINCE ARE SIMPLY SPILL-OVER FROM ACTIVITY IN CHUONG THIEN AND (C) ALTHOUGH THE 1972 PERIOD IN QUESTION INCLUDED THE NVA SPRING OFFENSIVE, FIGHTING IN THE DELTA THEN WAS

MINIMAL AND CONCENTRATED IN DINH TUONG AND CHUONG THIEN PROVINCES. ACCORDINGLY, WE ATTACH NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE PHONG DINH FIGURES.

4. MISCELLANEOUS: DURING THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 4-5, THERE WERE TWO EXPLOSIONS OF ARVN 21 DIVISION GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL SUPPLIES, AT VI THANH AND AT RACH GIA. MR IV ATTRIBUTED BOTH TO 82MM MORTAR ROUNDS. (WE WILL TRY TO DEVELOP FURTHER DETAIL. SIGNED LEHMANN  
UNQUOTE MARTIN

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